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COMMISSION STAFF

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September 23, 2003

Marlene H. Dortch
Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445-12th Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: **CC Docket No. 96-45, No. 00-256; October 1st Certification Requirement for Rural Carriers**

Dear Ms. Dortch:

Pursuant to 47 C.F.R. § 54.314, the Mississippi Public Service Commission ("MPSC") files its required annual certification for the **year 2004** for the rural carriers identified herein.

In accordance with the Federal Communication Commission's ("FCC") requirements in *Federal/State Joint Board on Universal Service, Fourteenth Report and Order, Twenty-Second Order on Reconsideration, and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking in CC Docket No. 96-45 and Report and Order in CC Docket No. 00-256*, the Mississippi Public Service Commission hereby certifies that all federal high cost support (which includes high cost loop support, local switching support, high cost support received pursuant to the purchase of exchanges, high cost model support, and hold harmless support) provided to the following rural carriers will be used only for the provision, maintenance, and upgrading of facilities and services for which the support is intended, consistent with Section 254(e) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996:

Carrier's Name

ALLTEL Mississippi, Inc.
Bay Springs Telephone Company
Bruce Telephone Company, Inc.
Calhoun City Telephone Company, Inc.
CenturyTel of North Mississippi, Inc.
Decatur Telephone Company
Delta Telephone Company, Inc.
Franklin Telephone Company, Inc.
Frontier Communications of Mississippi, Inc.
Fulton Telephone Company
Georgetown Telephone Company, Inc.
Lakeside Telephone Company
Mound Bayou Telephone Company

Carrier's Study Area Code

280453
280446
280447
280448
280458
280451
280452
280454
280460
280455
280456
280457
280462

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<u>Carrier's Name</u>	<u>Carrier's Study Area Code</u>
Myrtle Telephone Company, Inc.	287449
Noxapater Telephone Company	280461
Sledge Telephone Company	280466
Smithville Telephone Company, Inc.	280467
Southeast Mississippi Telephone Company, Inc.	283301

Enclosed is a stamped addressed envelope and an additional copy of this letter for you to use in forwarding a stamped filed copy of this correspondence. Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

In accordance with the FCC's mandate, this certification letter is also being sent to Irene Flannery, Universal Service Administrative Company.

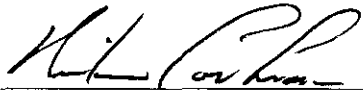
Sincerely,



Michael Callahan, Chairman



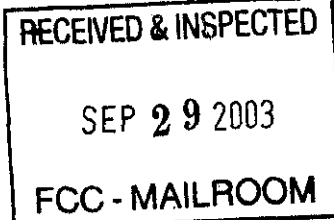
Bo Robinson, Vice-Chairman



Nielsen Cochran, Commissioner

Enclosure

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF
THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI



MISSISSIPPI PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

DOCKET NO. 01-AD-573

IN RE: **CERTIFICATION OF RURAL CARRIERS RECEIVING FEDERAL
UNIVERSAL SERVICE HIGH COST SUPPORT**

ORDER

THIS DAY, there came on for consideration by the Mississippi Public Service Commission ("Commission") the need to certify to the Federal Communications Commission ("FCC") and to the Universal Service Administrative Company ("USAC"), the rural carriers in Mississippi which will use all federal high cost support in accordance with § 254(e) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 (1996 Act).

After reviewing the entire record of this proceeding, including all plans filed by ALLTEL Mississippi, Inc., Bay Springs Telephone Company, Bruce Telephone Company, Inc., Calhoun City Telephone Company, Inc., CenturyTel of North Mississippi, Inc., Delta Telephone Company, Inc., Franklin Telephone Company, Inc., Decatur Telephone Company, Frontier Communications of Mississippi, Inc., Fulton Telephone Company, Lakeside Telephone Company, Myrtle Telephone Company, Inc., Georgetown Telephone Company, Inc., Mound Bayou Telephone Company, Noxapater Telephone Company, Sledge Telephone Company, Smithville Telephone Company, Inc., and Southeast Mississippi Telephone Company, Inc. and upon the recommendation of the Public Utilities Staff, this Commission finds as follows:

1. On August 14, 2001, the Commission established this Docket to certify, pursuant to the FCC's mandate in *Federal/State Joint Board on Universal Service, Fourteenth Report and Order, Twenty-Second Order on Reconsideration, and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking in CC Docket No. 96-45, and Report and Order in CC Docket No. 00-256* that all federal universal service support provided to rural carriers will be used only for the provision, maintenance and upgrading of facilities and services for which the support was intended and consistent with § 254(e) of the 1996 Act.

2. The required annual certification pursuant to 47 C.F.R. § 54.314 for year 2004 for rural carriers is due on or before October 1, 2003. The Commission addresses herein the certification of rural carriers.

3. The following rural carriers submitted plans to ensure compliance with the FCC mandate and § 254(e) of the 1996 Act:

<u>Name of Carrier</u>	<u>Carrier's Study Area Code</u>
ALLTEL Mississippi, Inc.	280453
Bay Springs Telephone Company	280446
Bruce Telephone Company, Inc.	280447
Calhoun City Telephone Company, Inc.	280448
CenturyTel of North Mississippi, Inc.	280458
Decatur Telephone Company	280451
Delta Telephone Company, Inc.	280452
Franklin Telephone Company, Inc.	280454
Frontier Communications of Mississippi, Inc.	280460
Fulton Telephone Company	280455
Georgetown Telephone Company, Inc.	280456
Lakeside Telephone Company	280457
Mound Bayou Telephone Company	280462
Myrtle Telephone Company, Inc.	287449
Noxapater Telephone Company	280461
Sledge Telephone Company	280466
Smithville Telephone Company, Inc.	280467
Southeast Mississippi Telephone Company, Inc.	283301

4. The Commission finds that based upon a review of each of the plans filed by the above-named rural carriers, the Commission hereby certifies to the FCC and to the USAC, that the above-identified rural carriers will utilize all federal high cost support (which includes high cost loop support, local switching support, high cost support received pursuant to the purchase of exchanges, high cost model support, and hold harmless support) only for the provision, maintenance and upgrading of facilities and services for which the support is intended and consistent with § 254(e) of the 1996 Act.

IT IS, THEREFORE, ORDERED, that the Commission hereby certifies to the FCC and to the USAC, that pursuant to the FCC's mandate in *Federal/State Joint Board on Universal Service, Fourteenth Report and Order, Twenty-Second Order on Reconsideration, and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking in CC Docket No. 96-45, and Report and Order in CC Docket No. 00-256* that the plans of ALLTEL Mississippi, Inc., Bay Springs Telephone Company, Bruce Telephone Company, Inc., Calhoun City Telephone Company, Inc., CenturyTel of North Mississippi, Inc., Delta Telephone

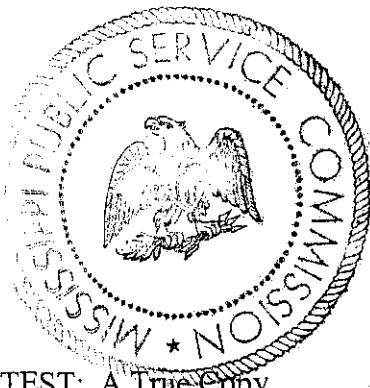
Company, Inc., Franklin Telephone Company, Inc., Decatur Telephone Company, Frontier Communications of Mississippi, Inc., Fulton Telephone Company, Lakeside Telephone Company, Myrtle Telephone Company, Inc., Georgetown Telephone Company, Inc., Mound Bayou Telephone Company, Noxapater Telephone Company, Sledge Telephone Company, Smithville Telephone Company, Inc., and Southeast Mississippi Telephone Company, Inc. are consistent with the 1996 Act and the pertinent FCC orders and that each named carrier will utilize all federal high-cost universal service support (which includes high cost loop support, local switching support, high cost support received pursuant to the purchase of exchanges, high cost model support, and hold harmless support) only for the provision, maintenance, and upgrading of facilities and services for which the support is intended in accordance with § 254(e) of the 1996 Act and pertinent orders of the FCC.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, that the Executive Secretary of the Commission is directed to immediately file this Order and the letter of certification with both the FCC and USAC.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, that this Order shall be effective upon its issuance.

SO ORDERED on this 23rd day of September, 2003.

MISSISSIPPI PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION



Michael Callahan
Michael Callahan, Chairman

Bo Robinson
Bo Robinson, Vice-Chairman

Nielsen Cochran
Nielsen Cochran, Commissioner

ATTEST: A True Copy

Brian U. Ray
BRIAN U. RAY
Executive Secretary

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PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

SUSAN S. MILLER
GENERAL COUNSELFELECIA L. GREER
EXECUTIVE SECRETARYGREGORY V. CARMEAN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

September 29, 2003

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FCC - MAILROOM

VIA FACSIMILE & FEDERAL EXPRESSMarlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Post-it* Fax Note	7671	Date	9/29	# of pages	4
To	Marlene Dortch	From	Greg Williams		
Co./Dept.	FCC	Co.	PSC		
Phone #		Phone #	410-267-8098		
Fax #	202 418 0187	Fax #			

Re: CC Docket No. 96-45, Certification Pursuant to 47 C.F.R. §54.314

Dear Secretary Dortch:

Pursuant to the requirements of 47 C.F.R. §54.314, the Public Service Commission of Maryland ("Maryland PSC") hereby certifies to the Federal Communications Commission ("Commission") that all federal high-cost support provided to Armstrong Telephone Company of Maryland ("Armstrong") for the period commencing January 1, 2004 and ending December 31, 2004, will be utilized in a manner consistent with §254(e) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996. As required by §254(e), Armstrong will utilize the Federal high-cost support for the provision, maintenance and upgrading of facilities and services for which the support is intended.

The Commission has reviewed Armstrong's request for certification and is satisfied that all federal Universal Service high cost support funds flowing to the Company, a rural local exchange carrier, will continue to be utilized solely for the purposes intended under §254(e) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996. A copy of Armstrong's affidavit in support of its request is attached.

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WILLIAM DONALD SCHAEFER TOWER • 6 ST. PAUL STREET • BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21202-6806

410-767-8000

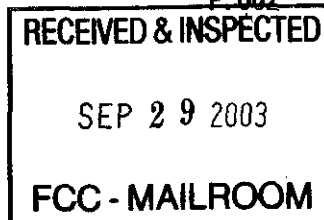
Toll Free: 1-800-492-0474

FAX: 410-333-6495

MDRS: 1-800-735-2258 (TTY/Voice)


Website: www.psc.state.md.us/psc/

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
September 29, 2003
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The Maryland PSC thanks the Commission for its cooperation in this very important matter. Please date stamp the extra copy of this filing and return it to the Maryland PSC in the enclosed, stamped, self-addressed envelope.

By Direction of the Commission,



Felecia L. Greer
Executive Secretary

FLG:nrm
Attachment

cc: James D. Mitchell, President Armstrong Telephone Company of Maryland
Michael L. Swindler, Esquire, Thomas, Thomas, Armstrong & Niesen

Ms. Irene Flannery
Universal Service Administrative Company
2120 L Street, NW, Suite 600
Washington, D.C. 20037

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA :
:
: ss
COUNTY OF BUTLER :

AFFIDAVIT

Pursuant to the requirements of 47 C.F.R. §54.314, Armstrong Telephone Company of Maryland ("Armstrong" or "Company") hereby certifies that all federal Universal Service high cost support funds flowing to the Company, a rural local exchange carrier, will only be utilized in the year 2004 for the purposes intended under Section 254(e) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 ("Act").

Specifically, Armstrong certifies that it will utilize its universal service support, in the amounts shown by USAC on its website at www.universalservice.org/hc/reports for the Company, for the provision, maintenance, and/or upgrading of facilities and service for which the support is intended.

In support of this certification, Armstrong represents the following:

- (1) Armstrong provided the supported services required by U.S.C. § 214(e);
- (2) Armstrong advertised the availability of supported services and the charges for them as required by U.S.C. § 214 (e); and
- (3) Funds received by Armstrong from the federal high-cost universal service support fund will be used only for the provision, maintenance, and upgrading of the facilities and services for which the support is intended.

Based upon the information provided in one or more of the above three categories, Armstrong certifies that it utilizes its federal universal service support for the purposes intended under Section 254(e) of the Act.

By James D. Mitchell
James D. Mitchell
President

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 28th day of August, 2003.

Notary Public

Kelly D. Chapman

My Commission Expires:

